

April 23, 1959

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
Subcommittee Chairman
Committee on Government Operations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Your letter of March 26th solicited some observations on future applications of genetics. I did not know quite how to cope with a question with such broad ramifications but I have two offerings: (1) I enclose some correspondence with a writer for the Physicians News Service which touches on these questions; (2) I might refer you to a recent interview with my colleague, Professor James F. Crow, which appeared in last month's issue of ESQUIRE magazine. Dr. Crow is perhaps readier than I am to encourage social control of human reproduction but there is undoubtedly a substantial basis in biological science for his remarks. The problem of eugenics is undoubtedly one we must eventually deal with although I would doubt that we have reached an adequate consensus on both the scientific and moral issues to formulate and execute a program of a scope that would influence future populations on a national or global scale.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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